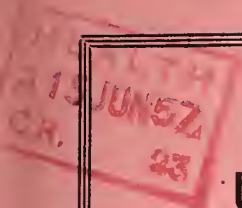


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHESHAM

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year 1956



T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

- - - - -

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1956

- - - - -

T.P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

T.P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer

Clerk

J.C. How

Shorthand Typist

Miss M. Rathmell

Junior Clerk

P. Bailey (Appointed 20.2.56.)



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham, Bucks.

May, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1956.

There was a low incidence of infectious disease during the year. Except for one case of meningococcal meningitis, there were no notifications of the more serious infectious diseases. The graph of the ten year period (1947-56) shows that the every-other-year characteristic of epidemic measles has been maintained. (Graph on Page 11)

The new British Salk-type vaccine against paralytic poliomyelitis was used for the first time in this country and in this area during the months of May and June, 1956. It is once again a pleasing duty to record that there was no case of diphtheria notified during the year, thus making 1956 the twelfth consecutive year during which no case of diphtheria has been notified in the Council's district. A marked improvement was recorded in the percentage of children immunized against diphtheria during the first year of life. In May and June 1956, the Mass Radiography Unit undertook its second periodic joint survey of the Amersham and Chesham Districts. The first took place in 1952. Of unusual interest is the attempt made to pay particular attention to two special groups. The first comprised the household contacts of those "school leavers", who in March 1956 on preliminary testing for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis were found to be reactors, i.e. already infected; the second group consisted of elderly males, which group is now believed to carry a definite responsibility in spreading tuberculosis, especially in industry. The total number participating in the survey in the Chesham area was roughly similar to those taking part four years ago; in 1952 the number was 4,161, whilst in 1956 it was 3,869.

In the field of environmental health services, the emphasis during the year has been on "Housing" and "Food Hygiene". Following the Council's five year programme of action under the Housing Acts, preliminary steps have already been taken to declare portions of Alexander and George Streets as Clearance Areas. Detailed surveys of the areas have been carried out but further progress depends upon the completion of concurrent plans for the provision of suitable alternative accommodation for the persons likely to be displaced.

On the 1st January 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation; their significance lies in the fact that they require a higher structural standard in food premises and the enforcement of improved food handling practices. The Regulations apply to any "food business" which means any business or undertaking in which food is sold or supplied for human consumption, whether sold for profit or not. Their scope is therefore wider than embraces canteens, clubs, schools, etc. This extension of their scope is welcome.

The designation of the office of Sanitary Inspector was changed by law to that of Public Health Inspector, but the duties and responsibilities remain unchanged. Much of the Council's Inspectors' time is taken up in the inspection of unfit houses, surveys concerning applications for improvement grants, in duties at the slaughterhouse, in visiting all types of food premises, as well as in the investigation of certain aspects of infectious diseases, and also in the investigation of alleged nuisances.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council's Chief Officers, the staff of the Public Health Department and the inspectorial staff for their co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

T. P. Evans

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,433
Population (estimated mid year 1956)	12,170
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings (per Valuation List 31.12.56.)	4,248
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.56.)	£180,438
Product of Penny Rate, 1956/57 (probable)	£710

The Urban District of Chesham was extended by the Bucks Review Order of 1934 from an acreage of 1,357 to the present acreage of 3,489.

Comparative Statistics - 1934 to 1956

Year	1934	1955	1956
Population	10,240	11,830	12,170
Rateable Value	£56,463	£87,772	£180,438 +
Product of Penny Rate	£212	£342	£710 *
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,084	4,086	4,248

+Revised Valuation List

(b) VITAL STATISTICS

Births

	Males	Females	Total
(i) Notified Live Births			
Legitimate	114	113	227
Illegitimate	1	5	6
(ii) Notified Still Births			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1

	Chesham	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	19.1	15.7 +
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	12.7	23.0 +

+ Provisional only

Deaths

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.4
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.7
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.8

Infant and Maternal Mortality

(i) Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil		
(ii) Deaths of Infants under one year of age	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
(iii) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.2
All infants per 1,000 registered live births	12.9
All infants per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)	23.8 +

+ Lowest ever recorded

Note The Corrected Death Rate is obtained when the crude rate has been adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. The adjustment is made by multiplying the crude rate by the area comparability factor, the appropriate factor for the district being 0.94. The corrected rate is comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

Causes of Death

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Meningococcal infections	-	1	1
2. Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	14	24
3. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
4. Diabetes	1	1	2
5. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	13	22
6. Coronary disease, angina	12	5	17
7. Other heart diseases	7	6	13
8. Other circulatory diseases	2	2	4
9. Pneumonia	4	7	11
10. Bronchitis	6	3	9
11. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
12. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
13. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
14. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
15. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
16. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	2	8
17. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
18. All other accidents	1	1	2
19. Suicide	1	1	2
	<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>126</u>

POPULATIONS, BIRTH & MORTALITY RATES FOR YEAR 1956

District	Population Census 1951	Registrar-General estimated Population Mid-1956.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-Births.
URBAN								
Aylesbury	21,054	21,800	17.4 (379)	9.5 (207)	0.09 (2)	13.2 (5)	10.6 (4)	- (-)
Beaconsfield	7,909	8,600	14.0 (120)	8.4 (72)	- (-)	16.7 (2)	16.7 (2)	- (-)
Bletchley	10,916	13,070	19.9 (260)	8.2 (107)	- (-)	15.4 (4)	3.8 (1)	- (-)
Buckingham	3,944	4,130	16.0 (66)	10.2 (42)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Chesham	11,428	12,170	19.1 (233)	10.4 (126)	- (-)	12.9 (3)	12.9 (3)	- (-)
Eton	3,250	4,910	13.6 (67)	9.8 (48)	0.20 (1)	29.9 (2)	14.9 (1)	- (-)
High Wycombe	40,692	43,360	15.7 (679)	9.5 (413)	0.07 (3)	14.7 (10)	11.8 (8)	- (-)
Linslade	3,269	3,520	19.9 (70)	12.5 (44)	- (-)	28.6 (2)	28.6 (2)	- (-)
Marlow	6,480	6,880	16.9 (116)	11.5 (79)	- (-)	34.5 (4)	34.5 (4)	8.62 (1)
Newport Pagnell	4,366	4,320	12.5 (54)	15.3 (66)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Slough	66,439	69,190	14.7 (1016)	8.5 (586)	0.13 (9)	20.7 (21)	17.7 (18)	- (-)
Wolverton	13,421	13,450	12.8 (172)	12.0 (161)	0.07 (1)	5.8 (1)	- (-)	- (-)
TOTAL URBAN	193,168	205,400	15.7 (3232)	9.5 (1951)	0.08 (16)	16.7 (54)	13.3 (43)	0.30 (1)
RURAL								
Amersham	41,432	46,680	15.9 (743)	10.2 (475)	0.06 (3)	20.2 (15)	17.5 (13)	- (-)
Aylesbury	29,543	32,080	15.1 (484)	11.2 (358)	0.06 (2)	12.4 (6)	8.3 (4)	- (-)
Buckingham	9,422	10,350	16.1 (167)	8.7 (90)	0.19 (2)	12.0 (2)	6.0 (1)	- (-)
Eton	43,120	50,460	18.5 (931)	8.6 (435)	0.08 (4)	22.6 (21)	15.0 (14)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	13,817	14,070	17.2 (242)	13.5 (190)	0.07 (1)	16.5 (4)	12.4 (3)	- (-)
Wing	9,042	8,770	18.8 (165)	10.6 (93)	0.11 (1)	12.1 (2)	12.1 (2)	6.02 (1)
Winslow	7,268	7,670	15.0 (155)	15.6 (120)	- (-)	8.7 (1)	8.7 (1)	- (-)
Wycombe	39,352	43,620	17.1 (745)	10.0 (435)	0.09 (4)	16.1 (12)	12.1 (9)	1.31 (1)
TOTAL RURAL	192,996	213,700	16.8 (3592)	10.3 (2196)	0.08 (17)	17.5 (63)	13.1 (47)	0.55 (2)
TOTAL COUNTY	386,164	419,100	16.3 (6824)	9.9 (4147)	0.08 (33)	17.1 (117)	13.2 (90)	0.43 (3)
ENGLAND & WALES			15.7	11.7	0.12	23.8	16.9	0.56

NOTES: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purposes of clearer comparison.

SECTION II

HEALTH SERVICES

(a) HOSPITAL SERVICES

Chesham Urban District is situated in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area. The Regional Hospital Board has delegated the duty of management of the local hospitals to the High Wycombe & District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day-to-day administration to two House Committees. One House Committee is responsible for three hospitals, viz. the Amersham General Hospital, The Chesham (Cottage) Hospital and the Stone Maternity Hospital, Chalfont St. Giles. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital, Chalfont St. Peter.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:-

Tuberculosis - Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General - Chesham Cottage Hospital
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury.
- Amersham General Hospital
- Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury.
- Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury.
- War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
- Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases - Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.
Mental - St. John's Hospital, Stone.
Maternity - The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious disease.

Public Health Laboratories are situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and at Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, and in general undertake free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc. The bacteriological examination of samples of water, milk and ice-cream is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton.

The chemical examination of water is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

(c) AMBULANCE SERVICES

Since the operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities of all kinds. The Bucks County Council provides an ambulance service for non-infectious cases for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. Two St. John's ambulances are stationed in Chesham.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Aylesbury and Slough.

(d) MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot provided by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has again rendered valuable service.

The supply of medical comforts helps relatives to nurse patients in their homes, particularly the elderly and chronic sick. Maternity cases nursed by district midwives also receive help.

In 1956, the Depot supplied throughout the County a total of 1,761 articles to 392 invalids and 121 maternity patients. At the close of the year 725 articles were on loan.

Thanks must be given to all members of the Chesham St. John Ambulance Brigade who associate themselves with this work.

(e) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is now provided by Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., from 305 Berkhamstead Road, Chesham - Telephone Chesham 8555.

(f) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

A Child Welfare Centre is established at the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham, where weekly sessions, with a Medical Officer in attendance are held. At the Centre mothers can obtain help and advice in the care of babies and young children and arrange immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Welfare foods are distributed from the Centre.

(g) HEALTH VISITING

A Health Visiting Service is provided by the Bucks County Council for health education of the public and personal guidance to families seeking advice. The Health Visitors for Chesham may be found through the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham - Telephone Chesham 8498.

(h) SPECIAL CLINICS

The Venereal Diseases Scheme of the Bucks County Council has established clinics at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and at High Wycombe.

SECTION III

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 to 1951

These Acts have been described as the final step in the break-up of the old Poor Law, the repeal of which was widely welcomed as it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness. The duties imposed by the Poor Law were transferred in many instances to Local Authorities, and certain duties, namely those under Sections 47 and 50 of the above Act become the responsibilities of the District Council.

Section 47

The provisions of this Section have for their purpose the securing of the necessary care and attention for persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and,
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Upon receipt of a report from the Medical Officer of Health, the Local Authority may apply to a Magistrates' Court for an order authorising a person's removal to hospital or other suitable place and for his detention for a period not exceeding three months. The person in respect of whom the application is made or some person in charge of him must be given seven clear days' notice of the intended application and of the time and place at which it is proposed to be made.

Section 47 of the 1948 Act has been amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, of 1951, which contains additional provisions for securing the speedier removal of urgent cases. Under these provisions, the Local Authority may give their Medical Officer of Health general authority to take immediate action where urgent removal is considered necessary; possessing such authority he may apply to a magistrate for an order to detain a person in suitable premises for a period not exceeding three weeks. In these circumstances, the Order may be made without notice of intended application having been given.

No cases requiring action under these provisions were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Act, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or has been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the year no occasion for the exercise of this duty has arisen.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 27 cases of Infectious Disease notified as follows:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Measles	12	-	-
Dysentery	2	1	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	11	-	-

Two primary notifications of tuberculosis were received.

2. TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis Mass Radiography Survey (1956)

There can be no doubt that the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis in the community has been immeasurably assisted by a combination of the newer procedures now available. Amongst the most important of these are the following four; the simply administered skin test with tuberculin which demonstrates in children previous infection with tuberculosis; B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis of "school leavers"; Mass Radiography Surveys of communities to discover unknown cases of the disease and finally the direct attack upon the disease by the newer drugs.

(b) B.C.G. Vaccination and Chest X-Rays

Tuberculin-testing is an integral part of B.C.G. vaccination. The children eligible are "school leavers" in their 13th - 14th year. Vaccination involves two visits to the school by the school doctor, the first for the preliminary skin testing with tuberculin, the second to record the result of the test and to proceed according to the result. Those who react positively (positive reactors) do not participate further and the parent is informed of the reason. The positive reaction indicates that such children have already been infected with tuberculosis and that they have thereby acquired a degree of protection from further infection with the disease. It is however only right to add that though they are already infected they are not necessarily suffering from the disease. They do not require the added protection given by vaccination. Those who do not react to the test (non-reactors) are vaccinated against tuberculosis.

In the schools of the Amersham and Chesham Divisional (Bucks) Education Committee, the B.C.G. vaccination of "school leavers" took place in March, 1956. Of the 535 children eligible by age, 431 were given the preliminary skin-test of whom 68 (15.7%) were proved to be positive reactors. Of the remaining 363 tested, 345 (82.3%) were vaccinated.

The positive reactors were also included in the "school leavers" groups investigated by chest x-rays by the Mass Radiography Survey in June, 1956. Up to date no case among the positive reactors has been notified as a case of tuberculosis. Also, the home-contacts of all the positive reactors were written to and advised to undergo chest x-ray examination by the Mass Radiography Unit as a precautionary measure to exclude the home contacts as the source of the child's infection which gave rise to the positive reaction.

(c) Mass Radiography Survey - Special Groups

The usual groups investigated during a survey are (1) organised groups of industrial workers (2) "school leavers" and (3) such individual members of the community as volunteered to attend. Since the underlying object of the survey is to determine the extent of the tubercular "reservoir of infection" within a community, it is obvious this can only be achieved when there is a 100% response from members of the community. As this degree of completeness has not yet been achieved anywhere in this country, the most practical alternative is to pay particular attention to special groups that are believed to carry a special responsibility in spreading the disease. Such a group is believed to consist of males of 45 years of age and over.

Generally speaking, there is a greater reluctance among the older age groups to participate in surveys and undertake chest x-rays, than in the younger. Recognising this, local doctors were communicated with and asked to bring the facilities of chest x-ray during the survey to the notice of this special group among their patients. The number of males in this group investigated was 1,224 and the number referred to the Chest Physician for further investigation was 17.

(d) Mass Radiography Survey

The joint survey of the Amersham and Chesham Districts was in the main organised on similar lines to those of the previous survey, four years ago in 1952. The survey took place during a period of approximately four weeks, the 28th May to 21st June, 1956. One difference was that this year two x-ray units participated. While one was touring the selected sites in the Amersham Council's District, the other was stationary in the Car Park at Chesham for three weeks. The results of the survey are given below, and the percentage attendance in the Chesham Urban District proved to be 31.8%

Comprehensive Survey

Table I
General Outline

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Village Green, Holmer Green	139	212	351
Dancer & Hearn Limited, Penn Street	230	81	331
Memorial Hall, Great Missenden	312	399	711
Amersham Old Town	500	533	1,033
Amersham-on-the-Hill	795	958	1,753
Chalfont St. Giles	215	298	423
Chalfont St. Peter	382	530	912
Broadway Car Park, Chesham.	1,728	2,141	3,869
	<u>4,321</u>	<u>5,062</u>	<u>9,383</u>

Table II
Examinees - Mode of Attendance

<u>Group</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
University Students	114	-	114
School leavers	654	687	1,341
Special Groups	1	27	28
Organised Groups	1,605	1,146	2,751
General Public	1,947	3,202	5,149
All Groups	4,321	5,062	9,383

Five Newly discovered cases of Post-primary Tuberculosis (Active)

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Size of Lesion</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>
Male	14-19	Early	Industrial	present
Male	25-34	Moderate	Industrial	none
Male	45-54	Moderate	General Public	none
Male	55-64	Moderate	General Public	none
Female	25-34	Moderate	General Public	none

One Newly discovered case of Post-primary Tuberculosis (Inactive)

Inactive: Age 23 yrs.

One Newly discovered case of Primary Tuberculosis

1 Male: Age 42 yrs.

- - - - -

3. POLIOMYELITIS

During the present century no other infectious disease and its prevention have held public imagination so intensely as did poliomyelitis and its vaccination during the early months of 1956. The announcement in mid-January of the proposal to vaccinate children of a certain age group with the new British Salk-Type vaccine was given a mixed reception. Soon thereafter there arose such a babel of divergent opinion that one was reminded of the accounts of the mixed reception given to Jenner's vaccination against smallpox at the turn of the 18th century. Immediately after the 14th April 1956 which was the latest date for the registration of parental consent forms with the statistical unit of the Medical Research Council, it was announced that approximately 29% of the eligible children in the country as a whole had been registered; the figure for Bucks was 22%. In April and May vaccination, which consisted of two injections, was completed in the first group of children chosen, but after the first injection of the second group, it was suspended and the vaccination rendered incomplete because supplies of the vaccine were inadequate. Suspended during the summer and autumn months when poliomyelitis is known to be prevalent, vaccination of the group left incomplete in May was completed in November, 1956. During 1956 the total number of cases in the country as a whole was low and the total number of children vaccinated was low, but sufficient to permit a reliable statistical evaluation of the vaccine to be undertaken. The organization and the execution of the vaccination in 1956 was in the hands of the Local Health Authority staffs and their medical officers but the 1957 programme makes provision for the employment of the general practitioner services.

Recently a further announcement by the Medical Research Council indicates that it is setting up a virus production plant at its serum laboratories at Carshalton, Surrey, which is expected to be in production in April, 1957. Its main function will be to produce poliomyelitis virus

on a fairly large scale. It will also provide for research on virus cultivation and for the preparation of tissue culture on a pilot plant scale. Another function will be the production for research purposes, of different strains of virus that may find place in future poliomyelitis vaccine. The need for this new unit is explained in the following extract from the Medical Research Council's statement:-

"While there is by now a substantial amount of experience in the use of the Salk-type vaccines in different countries, there is no evidence that the use of such a vaccine could entirely prevent poliomyelitis. Experience in the use of killed vaccine (like the Salk type) against other diseases would strongly suggest that their use must be combined with other protective measures. For the prevention of poliomyelitis, very much more knowledge is required on the way in which the virus is spread through the population."

What seems to be implied here is that the inert Salk-type vaccine used is unlikely to be the ultimate answer to poliomyelitis though there is every hope that it will be a useful step towards the alleviation of the paralytic forms of the disease. At present, therefore, it seems prudent to continue research on the production of a "live, attenuated and harmless vaccine" that is safe and effective against poliomyelitis because such a vaccine could prevent the non-paralytic as well as the paralytic forms of the disease. One of the advantages which the discovery of such a vaccine would confer would be a longer-term immunity - periodic booster doses would not be required. In short, research is being concentrated to find a vaccine that will eliminate poliomyelitis in the same way that vaccination has eliminated indigenous smallpox from this country.

4. DIPHTHERIA

The following table shows the number of children immunized against Diphtheria in Chesham in 1956. 1956 is the twelfth year in which no notification of diphtheria has been received in this district. The percentage of children immunized during the first year of life in this district was 83.8%.

Age Groups	Diphtheria Immunization							Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-10	10-14	
Primary Immunization	140	51	5	3	4	6	-	209
Re-immunization	-	-	-	-	15	117	-	132

Even a casual glance at the national statistics for Diphtheria given below, suffices to reveal the phenomenal fall in both the annual number of cases and of deaths during the past forty years. A closer scrutiny shows on comparing the corresponding figures for two ten-year periods, that whilst the numbers of cases in both periods are substantially the same, the number of deaths in the second ten-year period is virtually halved. The average annual number of cases for the period 1916/25 is given as 51,573 and the annual deaths as 4,214, whilst the corresponding figures for period 1933/42 are 55,125 and 2,3

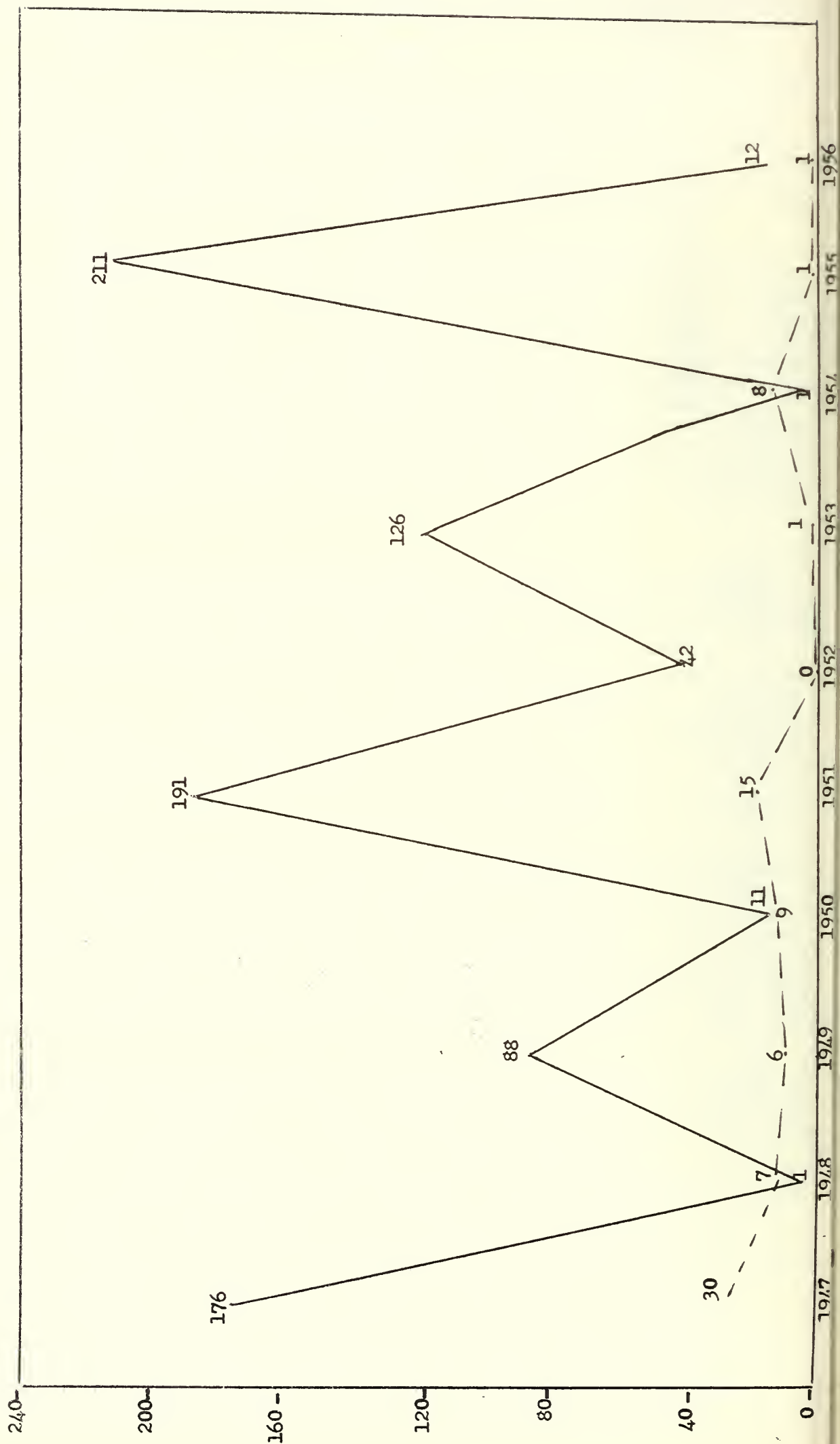
The decline in the number of deaths is striking. The only valid objection that can be lodged is that the numbers of cases for both periods are only partially corrected; as they may include diseases other than diphtheria the numbers are provisionally. However records of corrected notifications were first kept in 1942/43 and this practice has been continued since. It will be seen that a regularly progressive decline in the corresponding numbers is also evident in the third ten year period, 1944/53. Here the number of corrected notifications fell from 23,199 and 934 deaths in 1944 to 266 cases and 23 deaths in 1953. This gratifying result can only be attributed to the new positive factor known to be operative in varying degrees during the past twenty-five years. This fact is immunization against diphtheria. True, immunization did not become official national policy until 1941, but in 1943 the immunization campaign was well under way. Many medical pioneers and Child Welfare Authorities had encouraged and practiced immunization against diphtheria long before it became official policy, and it has been zealously practiced both by the medical staffs of Local Authorities and by the general practitioners' service since 1945.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Annual Average		
1916/25	51,573	4,214
Annual Average		
1933/42	55,125	2,783

Corrected Notifications

1944	23,199	934
1945	18,596	722
1946	11,986	472
1947	5,609	244
1948	3,575	156
1949	1,890	84
1950	962	49
1951	664	33
1952	376	32
1953	266	23
1954	174	9
1955	161	11

1947 - 1956 Notifications of Measles and Whooping Cough



SECTION V

HOUSING

1. SLUM CLEARANCE

In 1955, when submitting details of provisional slum clearance to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Council proposed that all the houses classified as unfit for human habitation and suitable for demolition within the district should be dealt with within five years. The number of unfit houses in the programme was 137, of which 52 were likely to be placed in clearance areas whilst the remaining 85 would be dealt with by the procedure applicable to the demolition of individual unfit houses.

During 1956, preliminary action has been taken in connection with two proposed clearance areas in George Street and Alexander Street. Detailed inspections of 27 houses have been carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and reports upon which statutory action will be based are in preparation for submission to the Council.

The clearance of sub-standard properties is governed in large measure by the rate at which suitable alternative accommodation can be made available to persons displaced.

In connection with the proposed clearance areas in George Street and Alexander Street, the Council have decided to acquire land in the same vicinity on which suitable dwellings may be erected. The Council have also decided in principle to proceed by way of compulsory purchase of the properties included in the proposed clearance areas for subsequent demolition, the cleared sites then to be redeveloped in conjunction with the land mentioned above.

Information already available indicates that the displaced persons are mainly elderly couples or persons living alone and the Council's proposals include a high proportion of one or two bedroom dwellings.

The Council have in mind the long term redevelopment of the George Street, Alexander Street and Francis Street area, with possible improvements to street lay-out and access.

Individual Unfit Houses

During the year action has been taken to deal with two individual unfit houses which had become vacant. In both cases the owners have given undertakings not to use the dwellings again for human habitation. One similar undertaking has also been given in respect of part of a building.

2. HOUSING REPAIRS

Formal action under the Housing Acts has resulted in the completion of extensive reconditioning of three houses during the year, viz. Nos. 225, 227 & 246 Waterside. In each of these cases the houses had been considered by the Council to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost, but undertakings from the owners that they would render the houses fit were accepted.

The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was 25. Action was in most cases the result of complaint made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out.

It is now widely agreed that the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has failed in one of its objects, the repair of the bulk of low rented privately owned properties. It will be recalled that this Act enabled landlords to increase rents of controlled properties, subject to the premises being in a satisfactory state of repair. Little advantage has been taken of these provisions, as the permitted increases provided inadequate return for the high cost of essential repairs.

Under the Act, tenants given notice of increase of rent who are of opinion that the house they occupy is not in a satisfactory state of repair may apply to the local authority for a Certificate of Disrepair, which, if granted, enables them to withhold the rent increase. Only one such application has been received by this Authority.

The impending revision of the Rents Acts may give the necessary incentive to owners to maintain the older rented properties, thereby preventing the further deterioration and eventual loss to the community of a vast number of reasonable adequate dwellings, which, if provided with a few modern amenities, have many more years of useful life. The new legislation should facilitate enforcement of repairs by local authorities in cases of default.

3. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 1956 the Chesham Council has continued to give financial assistance to private persons for the improvement of house property, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949. The Public Health Inspectors made 231 visits in connection with this scheme.

The table below shows the number of applications received and approved, together with the total amount of grants made for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956.

	1954	1955	1956	Total
Number of Applications	13	30	18	61
Number of Grants Approved	12	28	16	56
Total cost of approved improvements	£4,777	£12,279	£6,781	£23,837
Total amount of grants approved	£2,089	£5,373	£3,148	£10,510
Number of schemes completed	1	20	20	41

4. POSTWAR HOUSING

During 1956, the Council rehoused 122 families, including 33 exchanges of tenancy.

Six cases of statutory overcrowding involving 42 persons were relieved

Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 1,196 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post war period are of interest.

POSTWAR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

YEAR	HOUSE TYPES & NUMBER				ANNUAL COUNCIL TOTAL	HOUSES ERECTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O.A.P. Bungs.		
1946	35	-	-	-	35	14
1947	-	14	-	-	14	17
1948	-	67	-	-	67	15
1949	-	87	28	-	115	24
1950	-	18	8	-	26	15
1951	-	33	8	8	49	11
1952	-	-	36	-	36	5
1953	-	22	12	5	39	31
1954	-	144	17	-	161	69 +
1955	-	34	13	27	74	123 ø
1956	-	36	12	-	48	180 H
TOTAL	35	455	134	40	664	504

+ Includes 8 houses erected by a Housing Association

ø Includes 9 houses erected by a Housing Association

H Includes 11 houses erected by a Housing Association

At the close of the year there were 4 houses under construction by the Council and 122 under private construction.

SECTION VI

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's Undertaking supplies 84% of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

There are only 28 dwellings in the District dependent upon a well supply. Samples of water from these well supplies are from time to time subjected to bacteriological examination.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Distribution

During the year the following new water mains were laid by Chesham Council's Water Undertaking:-

<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
Chessmount Estate	1302 yards	3"
Penn Avenue	22 "	3"

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

Samples of water as distributed from piped supplies have been taken throughout the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. The following table shows the number of samples taken with the results of examinations:-

Name of Water Undertaking	Samples for Bacteriological Examination		Samples for Chemical Analysis	
	Date	Result	Date	Result
<u>Urban District Council of Chesham</u>	9.5.56.	Satisfactory	9.5.56.	Satisfactory
	14.8.56.	"	14.8.56.	"
	4.12.56.	"	4.12.56.	"
<u>Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company</u>				
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge supply	5.6.56.	Satisfactory	5.6.56.	Satisfactory
	4.12.56.	"	4.12.56.	"
Amersham & Beaconsfield supply	9.5.56.	Satisfactory	9.5.56.	Satisfactory
	14.8.56.	"	14.8.56.	"
	11.12.56.	"	11.12.56.	"
Berkhamsted supply	5.6.56.	Satisfactory	5.6.56.	Satisfactory
	11.12.56.	"	11.12.56.	"

Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of four recent samples:-

W/10/56	236 Vale Road, Chesham	(Rickmansworth & Uxbridge supply)
W/11/56	Council Offices, Chesham	(Chesham U.D. Council supply)
W/12/56	52 Bois Moor Road, Chesham	(Amersham and Beaconsfield supply)
W/13/56	5 Lye Green Cottages, Chesham	(Berkhamsted supply)

Chemical Analysis

	W/10/56	W/11/56	W/12/56	W/13/56
Appearance	All clear and colourless			
Reaction (pH)	7.1	7.1	7.5	7.3
	Parts per ml.			
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Solids	318	340	356	315
Loss on Ignition	-	-	-	-
Chlorine in chlorides	12.0	11.0	14.0	13.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil	0.002	0.002	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.006	0.006	0.012	0.006
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.0	3.0	1.5	3.0
Oxygen absorbed from (permanganate 3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	0.24	Nil	0.110	0.018
Hardness, Temporary	205	215	245	215
Permanent	31	36	20	28
Total	236	251	265	243
Metals: Lead, Copper & Zinc	Not found			

Bacteriological Examination

	Per Ml.			
Colonies on agar in 48 hrs. @ 37° C.	0	0	0	0
Colonies on agar in 72 hrs. @ 20° C.	0	3	9	2
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.			

Opinion - All samples

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes

Number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains (mid-year)

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal piped supply	4,097	-	11,800
External (standpipes etc.)	123	28	293

Number of dwellings supplied from wells - 28.

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH.

The untreated water from the bore well which supplies the Council's swimming bath is known to be subject to intermittent contamination. When in use the water in the filled bath is dosed regularly with chlorine and bacteriological examination of samples has shown that whenever the free chlorine is maintained between 0.2 and 0.5 parts per million, the water is safe for bathing purposes.

Whilst the Department has submitted only two samples for bacteriological examination during 1956, the free chlorine content of the water has been checked on frequent occasions. As a result of a number of negative tests, arrangements were made for the filled bath to be dosed at shorter intervals and for additional chlorine to be added during periods of heavy use.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on the separate system, the soil water sewer discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road. The effluent resulting from the treatment of the sewage in sedimentation tanks and percolating filters is discharged to the River Chess.

In accordance with the recommendations that were given by the Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955, preliminary steps have been taken during the year to improve the operation of the sewage disposal plant, particularly the working of the sedimentation tanks. The Surveyor's Department has also been preparing plans of work needed to reduce the amount of infiltration of water into the sewers in low-lying parts of the town.

Parts of the District not served by public sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in Berkeley Avenue, Botley Road and other outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk. Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings.

Cesspool emptying

The Council's machine emptied 168 cesspools during 1956, 158 being in the Urban District, whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas. Charges for emptying cesspools are 15/- for each emptying within the Urban District and 17/6d per hour for emptying cesspools outside the district.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL

All house refuse collected in the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Salvage Return for the year 1956

	tons	cwt.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Scrap Iron	11	1	84	62.	1.	6.
Scrap Lead		7	111	36.	2.	0.
Scrap Brass, copper, etc.		3	54	25.	1.	2.
Loose tins	5	13	84	9.	19.	1.
	17	6	109	133.	3.	9.

SECTION VII

SANITARY INSPECTION

1. VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	60
Revisits made to houses under Public Health Acts	219
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	30
Revisits made to houses under Housing Acts	191
Number of houses inspected for vermin	5
Number of rooms disinfested	15
Miscellaneous visits to houses	72
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants	231
Infestation of wasps destroyed	10
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred	9
Number of rooms disinfested	-
Visits to Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	441
Visits to Butchers' Shops	49
Visits to Fish Shops	6
Visits to Grocers' Shops	33
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	15
Visits to Food Preparing Places	6
Visits to Restaurants	42
Visits to Bakehouses	16
Visits to Dairies	-
Visits in connection with Milk Sampling	3
Visits to Licensed Premises	-
Visits to Knackers' Yard	4
Visits and inspections of Factories	36
Visits in connection with Water Supply	43
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	65
Interviews	362
Miscellaneous visits	261

2. LIBRARY BOOKS

During the year five library books were withdrawn from houses where infectious disease had occurred and were disinfested before being returned to the librarian for re-circulation.

3. VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year one infestation of bed bugs was reported and treated.

In addition, in response to requests for help from occupiers, nests of wasps were destroyed at ten premises during the summer months; two infestations of flies were also dealt with.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - STATUTORY NOTICES

The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year:-

Section of Act	Details	Number of Notices		
		Served	Complied with	Outstanding 31.12.56.
39	Choked drainage system	1	-	1
45	Defective sanitary accommodation	1	-	1
93	Abatement of nuisances	1	-	1
101	Abatement of smoke nuisance	1	See report below	

Abatement Notice for Smoke Nuisance

On the 9th June, 1956, a statutory notice was served upon Messrs. Beech Bucks Products Limited, occupiers of a woodware factory in Townsend Road, Chesham, requiring them to abate a nuisance caused by smoke from the boiler chimney at the premises.

The events which led to the Council taking this action extended over a long period. Numerous reports of a nuisance had been made by occupiers of premises in the vicinity, the chief complaint being of sooty and partially burnt particles which were ejected with the smoke. Instances were brought to the notice of the Public Health Officers in which babies left in prams in the open were covered with these sooty particles, one complainant alleging that his child's eyes had been affected by smuts from the chimney.

The attention of the management of the factory was first drawn to the nuisance in September 1954. It was revealed that the steam raising boiler from which the smoke arose was fired almost entirely on off-cuts, shavings and saw-dust, wood waste derived from the trade in which the factory engaged. The Company were advised to seek technical help concerning the best methods of dealing with the problem. A sub-Committee of the Council met representatives of the Company on the site. The Company were left in no doubt that the Council took a serious view of the matter, but made no serious attempt to abate the nuisance.

Immediately prior to the service of the notice, the Public Health Inspector had kept a continuous observation on the chimney throughout 8 hours of a working day, when it was recorded that dense smoke was emitted for a total of 74 minutes, whilst smoke in substantial quantity was emitted for 227 minutes.

Following receipt of the notice the Company submitted proposals as to certain works they were prepared to carry out to the chimney, but examination of the plans indicated that the works would not abate the nuisance satisfactorily and the Company were advised accordingly. At this stage, the Council engaged the services of a Consulting Engineer to assist them in subsequent proceedings.

As the nuisance continued after the expiry of the abatement notice, the Council authorised proceedings to be taken before a Court of Petty Sessions. However, the case did not reach the Court, as at about the time the case was to be heard, the Company called a meeting of creditors at which it was decided to wind up the business. Liquidation proceeded forthwith and work at the factory ceased before the end of the year.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

The following table shows the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1956:-

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Qtst. 1.1.56.	Reported in 1956	Remedied in 1956	Outstanding 31.12.56.
Dampness	20	20	18	22
Defective doors and windows	10	17	11	16
Defective roof surface water drainage	4	9	5	8
Defective sanitary accommodation	4	8	9	3
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	1	-	-	1
Defective floors, stairs, etc.	1	13	8	6
Unsatisfactory dustbins	-	24	24	-
Defective fireplaces	6	3	4	5
Leaking roofs	11	7	11	7
Defective and dangerous ceilings	3	8	6	5
Unsatisfactory yard paving and drainage	6	1	1	6
Defective drainage systems, choked drains	1	12	12	1
Miscellaneous	4	7	9	2
Totals	71	129	118	82

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Provision of Dustbins

Since 1950 the Council has used the powers given by Section 75(3) of the Act, which provides that in lieu of requiring owners or occupiers of buildings to provide dustbins, the Local Authority may themselves undertake to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. An annual charge of 5/- collected with the general rate, is charged for each dustbin.

In practice Council dustbins are not delivered to premises before the attention of owners has been drawn to the unsatisfactory arrangements and they have had an opportunity of providing dustbins themselves.

Provision of Dustbins by Council

Number of dustbins provided in 1956	52
Number of dustbins provided 1950/1955	98
	<u>150</u>

7. RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The methods of rodent control practiced in the District have been similar to those of previous years. The inspection of all types of premises is carried out as result of notifications received from occupiers, and to a greater extent by the continual routine survey of the area.

Rat and mice infestations have been treated successfully using the rodenticide Warfarin.

During the year, the Council's sewers received two maintenance treatments for rat infestations. The first was carried out in April and 71 manholes were baited and 29 complete takes were observed. 52 manholes were baited during the second treatment in October when six complete takes were observed. The infested sewers were located in the Newtown and central areas of the town, areas in which infestations have been recorded regularly in recent years.

In addition, a 10% test of the remainder of the sewer manholes was undertaken, resulting in 14 fresh infestations being detected and treated.

Particular attention has been given to the survey of Council property and infestations have been treated at the site of the Incinerator and Sewage Works, and also at the Refuse Tip on the Lower Moor.

In connection with the treatment of sewers, the Rodent Officer completed a survey of all existing manholes on the Council's system, recording their location and noting whether or not baiting was practicable. This information will enable more systematic testing of the sewers in future; ideally, every manhole should be tested for presence of rats once in ten years.

Rick Survey

Early in the year, local authorities throughout England and Wales were asked to assist the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in a census of infestations in corn ricks. In response, the Council's Rodent Officer attended the threshing of two ricks in the District and completed the Ministry's questionnaire. The ricks concerned were found to be heavily infested with mice, but no rats were present.

Summary of Action taken during 1956

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling Houses	Agricult- ural	All Other (including business)
I. <u>Inspections</u> Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	1	48	-	21
(b) Survey under the Act	6	554	18	159
(c) Reinspections	7	45	-	39
II. <u>Infestations</u> Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	4	91	1	22
(b) Mice	1	5	-	5
III. <u>Treatments</u> Number of infested properties treated (rats and mice)	5	87	-	29
IV. Number of 'Block' Control schemes carried out.	-	13	-	-

8. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are registered under the Act, the activities carried on being the manufacture of soft toys in one case and the upholstery of furniture and bedding in the other.

9. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year one person has been licensed to keep a pet shop in the District. The business carried on at the premises has been limited to the sale of tropical fish.

10. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 269

Moveable Dwellings

During 1956, 26 persons were licensed under Section 269 of the Act to station moveable dwellings in the district. Twenty-three of the caravans were stationed on the site managed by the Chesham Urban District Council on their land at Trapps Lane, Chesham, the remaining three being located on various individual sites throughout the district.

The Council's site which has been fully occupied since opening in 1951 contains standings for 23 caravans. A piped supply of main water is available and a communal sanitary block has been provided, containing water closets and washing facilities. A rental of 7/6d per week is charged for each caravan.

SECTION VIII

MILK

1. Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954
 Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954
 Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
 Regulations, 1949 to 1953

Since the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Regulations, on the 1st October 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

There are ten producers of milk within the Council's area and the majority are known to have licensed "Tuberculin Tested" herds. All but one dispose of their milk in bulk, either to the local firm of Chesham Dairies Limited, or to the Express Dairy Company (London) Limited.

The one producer/retailer operates a retail round in the Chesham area, selling "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Number of Registered Milk Distributors	4
Number of Registered Premises used as Dairies (not being dairy farms)	1

The number and type of licences granted by this Authority under the Regulations are given below:-

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	1

During the year three samples of bottled milk in respect of which the special designation "Pasteurised" was in use were collected from licensed distributors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples passed the prescribed tests for "Pasteurised" Milk.

2. Food and Drugs Acts.
 Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Article 20

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the period.

3. Tuberculosis Order, 1938

No notifications of the slaughter of tuberculous animals under the above Order were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Green Grocery Shops	56
Butchers Shops	13
Wet Fish Shops	3
Fish Frying Premises	3
Bakers	3
Confectionery	13
Restaurants	12
Food manufacturing premises	3
Dairies	1
Factory and Shop Canteens	9
School Kitchens	3
School Dining Centres	10
Licensed Premises	29
Food Warehouses	1
Slaughterhouses	1
Clubs and Public Halls	12
	<hr/>
	172

Note: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

2. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

	Premises on Register 1955	Added to Register 1956	Removed from Register 1956	Total on Register 31.12.56.
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	46	4	-	50
Manufacture of ice-cream	6	-	-	6
Manufacture of Preserved Food	17	-	-	17
Fish Frying	5	-	-	5
TOTALS	74	4	-	78

Note: Of the six premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream, only one is now actually doing so.

3. FOOD HYGIENE

On the 1st January, 1956, the long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation. The Regulations replaced Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and added a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc.

The new Regulations reflect the increased significance with which food hygiene is regarded in the field of public health. A much greater proportion of the general public than in pre-war days have certain meals outside their homes, at cafes, canteens and restaurants; the increasing incidence of food poisoning cannot be disassociated from this change in feeding habits.

Early opportunity was taken to send a letter to all known food traders in the district, numbering about 150, drawing their attention to the new Regulations. Enclosed with the letter was a booklet "Your Guide to the Food Regulations, 1955", published by the Central Council for Health Education. This booklet sets out in simple language the important ways in which the Regulations apply to food premises and food handlers. Posters summarising the provisions of the Regulations applicable to food handlers were supplied to establishments employing a number of assistants, and the managements of all food factories and factory canteens have been asked to display posters which have been supplied from the Central Office of Information, illustrating various aspects of food hygiene. In addition, letters and booklets were sent to the Chamber of Trade and other organisations which would appear to have an interest in the matter.

Unfortunately, all efforts to obtain the active co-operation of local traders have met with little response.

The Public Health Inspectors have made 167 visits to food premises in connection with the Regulations during the year and detailed surveys have been completed in respect of 32 food premises, mostly butchers, grocers and caterers.

Details of this work are set out in the following table:-

Inspection of Food Premises - Summary of Defects Found & Remedied in 1956		
Infringements in relation to :-	No. of cases in which defects were found	No. of cases in which defects have been remedied after notice
1. Sanitary Conveniences		
Cleanliness	7	2
Light & ventilation	6	-
Notice to Employees	8	1
Other matters	7	-
2. Water supply	1	-
3. Wash-hand basins		
Suitable and sufficient	23	6
Hot and cold water	25	7
Soap, nailbrushes & towels	2	-
Cleanliness, repair and efficiency	-	-
4. First Aid Materials	5	-
5. Clothing Accommodation	12	3
6. Sinks		
Suitable and sufficient	17	4
Hot and cold water	15	4
7. Food Rooms		
Ventilation	1	1
Repair	14	3
Cleanliness	16	1
8. Refuse Receptacles	3	2
9. Heating and Cooling Equipment	5	2
10. Other Equipment		
Repair	8	2
Condition	6	-
Cleanliness	6	-
11. Food Exposed to Contamination	12	-
12. Containers Exposed to Contamination	3	-
13. Personal Cleanliness	-	-
14. Other matters	8	1
TOTALS	210	39

Chesham is an old town and many of its business premises lack modern amenities and fall far below the standard required by the new legislation. Whilst the reluctance of the small trader to incur the expenditure necessary to modernise premises and fittings may be appreciated, it should be remembered that the new Regulations were introduced following prolonged investigation by the Government, including consultations with the catering and food trades. They represent the minimum requirements for food businesses if the health of the community is to be protected from the additional hazards of modern life, and food traders must appreciate their special responsibilities to the general public in this connection.

There is little doubt that the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, mark an important advance in health legislation and afford local authorities the opportunity of making a valuable contribution to the improvement of hygienic conditions in food premises.

4. MEAT INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection at the Slaughterhouse

A table showing the number of carcasses inspected and condemned in 1956 is given below:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	563	46	260	706	2315	-
Number inspected	563	46	260	706	2135	-
<u>All diseases except T.B. & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	1	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	80	7	-	4	53	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	14.38%	15.21%	-	0.7%	2.33%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	28	2	-	-	84	-
Percentage of number insp- ected affected with T.B.	5.32%	4.34%	-	-	3.62%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the District, under lease to the Chesham Council from the Chesham, Wycombe & Tring Co-operative Society, has continued to operate during the year, the slaughtering facilities being used by a group of Amersham and Chesham traders.

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are responsible for the examination of all meat and a system of 100% inspection is in operation. This work has involved 441 visits to the Slaughterhouse during the past twelve months.

The total number of animals slaughtered and examined during the year showed a decrease on previous years; comparative figures for the past five years are shown in the following table:-

Number of Animals Slaughtered & Inspected during 1952-56

YEAR	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	Total kill in equivalent cattle units (see note below)
1952	2006	1078	3879	59	3171
1953	2135	639	4569	558	3541
1954	1185	213	3631	2122	3043
1955	656	234	929	2651	2245
1956	609	260	706	2315	1994

Note: One cattle unit represents 1 cattle beast or 3 calves,
or 5 sheep or 2 pigs.

(b) Percentage of Animals Inspected affected with Tuberculosis

The percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis maintained the improvement shown in recent years. The following table shows comparative figures for the past five years.

Percentage of Number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis

YEAR	CATTLE Excluding Cows	COWS	CALVES	PIGS
1952	7.5%	17.8%	0.09%	3.4%
1953	8.3%	12.8%	-	4.3%
1954	8.5%	20.0%	-	2.9%
1955	6.74%	14.67%	-	2.52%
1956	5.32%	4.34%	-	3.62%

(c) Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen.

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December 1955	8
Applications for Licences considered during 1956	1
Applications for Renewals considered during 1956	8
Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of licences)	-
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December 1956	9

5. KNACKERS' YARDS

The licensed Knackers' Yard situated at Broadview Farm, Great Hiving Chesham, has continued to operate during the year. In accordance with the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954, the occupier has to submit to the Council an annual return showing the number of horses dealt with. The return for 1956 shows the Knackers' Yard received the carcasses of 79 horses during the year.

Byelaws relating to the sanitary condition, management and keeping of records in Knackers' Yards have been adopted by the Council and will come into operation on the 31st March, 1957.

During the year under review, the occupier commenced works to bring the Knackers' Yard up to the required standard.

The improvements will include the provision of hanging accommodation for meat intended for sale, sanitary arrangements for storage of manure and refuse, and the provision of adequate hot water as well as washing facilities and sanitary conveniences for the use of the staff.

6. ICE-CREAM

During the year visits have been made to premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold with a view to ensuring that the provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, are observed. Most of the ice-cream sold is manufactured outside the District and is of the pre-packed variety.

Ice-cream Sampling

Six samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the following table shows a summary of the results obtained:-

	Samples Taken	Provisional Grading recommended by Ministry of Health			
		I	II	III	IV
Ice-cream manufactured in the district	1	1	-	-	-
Ice-cream manufactured outside the district	5	4	1	-	-
TOTALS	6	5	1	-	-

These results are satisfactory.

7. FOOD POISONING

One outbreak of food poisoning was reported during the year. This occurred during October in a Nursery School Class attended by about thirty children under 5: they receive their mid-day meal on the premises which is housed in a separate building quite apart from the main school. The meal is cooked on class room premises. At mid-day on Wednesday the 24th October the meal consisted of meat stew, potatoes and treacle tart. Next morning two children were absent because of attacks of pain, diarrhoea and vomiting during the previous night, i.e. 24/25-10-56. The parents of 11 other children when they brought their children to school on Thursday the 25th mentioned similar attacks suffered by their children during the night all between 12 and 14 hours after partaking of the meal.

On Thursday, 25th October, the sample meal held over from the previous day was sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for investigation, and on the following day samples of faeces from 12 children were sent for investigation. No sample was available from the remaining child. Of the 13 children involved eleven were resident in the Chesham District and two were from the Amersham Rural District.

The results of the laboratory investigations on the 30th October showed that in one case *Clostridium Welchii* were isolated both from a faecal specimen of one child as well as from the meat stew and treacle tart. Though the organisms isolated did not appear to be of a type usually associated with food poisoning they were further investigated, and a further report indicated that they did not resemble any of the usual food poisoning types.

8. CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Beef	2	1	26
Pork		10	16
Mutton			75
Ham			3½
Jellied veal			6
Bacon			45
Frozen Egg			34
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 93½

Tinned Goods: 33 tins Corned Beef
 48 tins Meat
 191 tins Fruit
 167 tins Vegetables
 6 tins Soup and Stew
 112 tins Milk
 29 tins Fish

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs (other than meat from the Slaughterhouse) are collected from traders by the Surveyor's Department of the Council and destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

The disposal of meat condemned as unfit at the Slaughterhouse is subject to arrangements between the Council and individual owners. Without prejudice to powers of seizure under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Council has agreed to permit owners to retain possession of unsound meat, provided they give a signed undertaking that such meat will not be used for human consumption.

Before disposal the owners are requested to notify the Chief Public Health Inspector of the names and addresses of the persons to whom the condemned materials are being consigned. As a safeguard, the Chesham Slaughterhouse Company, who operate the Slaughterhouse, undertake to stain the rejected meat and offal with a green dye before allowing removal from the premises.

SECTION X

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	94	32	4	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	3	3	-	-
TOTAL	108	36	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	6	3	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	3	-	2	-

3. OUTWORK

During the year lists of outworkers have been received showing the names of seventyfive persons engaged in the following classes of work.

Textile weaving	57
Making of wearing apparel	1
Brush-making	8
Making of Christmas novelties, etc.	9

There were two cases of default in sending lists of outworkers to the Council as required by Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937. The firms giving the outwork were notified and requested to supply the necessary lists in February and August of each year.

4. CHESHAM INDUSTRIES

The following is a list of Factories on the Register on 31st December 1956.

Factories with Power

Woodware and Joinery	14
Motor-vehicle repairs	10
Brushware	8
Boot Manufacture and Repairs	7
Light Engineering	11
Clothing and Textiles	4
Printers	3
Toy Manufacture	2
Plastic Moulding	1
Food Manufacture and Packing	9
Upholstery	2
Manufacturing Jewellers	2
Miscellaneous	<u>21</u>
	94
	<hr/>
Building Operations	3

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Upholstery	1
Undertakers	1
Stone Mason	1
Blacksmith	1
Dressmaking & Tailoring	2
Cycle Repairs	1
Waste Merchant	1
Radio Engineer	1
Packing	<u>2</u>
	<u>11</u>
	<hr/>